



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

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Topic: FY 2006 Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot Update

Background/Status: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continues to make significant progress in its ordnance and environmental investigations and remediation at the Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot (FNOD) site in Suffolk, Va., which is listed on the EPA's National Priorities List. 2006 proved to be a banner year for the FNOD Project Team, comprised of the Corps, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, numerous civilian contractors and engineering firms, along with vital support and input from local officials, key stakeholders and community members.

The 2006 clean-up campaign featured:

- Adjusted priorities as necessary to reflect current risks and site exposure patterns;
- Significantly improved munitions removal process with operation of mechanical sifter;
- Concentration on end-game strategies for several key sites;
- New review strategy to speed up site work regulatory approval process;
- Initiated contract investigation at 9 of remaining 12 Areas of Concern, including two new AOCs; and,
- Improved public information products to better inform community members, stakeholders.

FY 2006 Key Points:

- There are a total of six EPA-designated Source Areas and 23 other Areas of Concern (AOC) scattered throughout the 975-acre project site. Investigation and evaluation continues at four of the six EPA Source Areas. Five of the 23 AOCs have been fully evaluated and eliminated as potential hazardous sites. Fifteen of the remaining 18 AOCs are currently undergoing various levels of investigation (some nearing completion), and start-up investigations at the remaining three AOCs are expected in FY 07, which begins Oct. 1.
- The Corps' munitions response efforts began in earnest at the former depot in 2000, and are expected to continue through September 2011. As of July 28, 2006, the Corps has removed 2,637 discarded munitions items, 8,901 pounds of bulk explosives, 7,622 pounds of small arms ammunition, 168,678 pounds of munitions debris (inert material), over 1.4 million pounds of non-munitions-related scrap, and nearly 7.3 million pounds of contaminated soil.
- The ongoing study and clean-up of FNOD is focused toward safety first, but getting former Defense Department property into productive use is important too. Redevelopment of the former depot is continuing at an impressive pace. The third phase of Bridgeway Commerce Park is nearing completion along Harbour View Boulevard; the road network for Bridgeway LP's residential development on what used to be Dominion Lands Property is nearly in place; and TCC/VCCS sold a 57-acre parcel to the city of Suffolk for probable development as a high-tech office park in July 2006.

General Information:

- **Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Briefing** – The Corps will brief the completed Draft Pesticide Drum Area Remedial Investigation Report and the preliminary results of the most recent (Summer 2006)

environmental sampling at the TNT Area of the Tidewater Community College (TCC) property at its September 7, 2006 RAB meeting.

- **J Lake Investigation** – This investigation involves evaluation of ground scars from 1950s-era aerial photographs for potential contaminants, as well as evaluating the condition of the lake itself for any impacts associated with undocumented but possible Defense Department disposal practices. The Corps is currently conducting a Site Investigation which will determine presence or absence of any hazardous substance at the site, to include things that might have been discarded into the lake.
- **Arsenic Investigation** – The Corps has developed a work plan to investigate arsenic that has been detected in a couple of groundwater monitoring wells located between the Horseshoe Pond and the former GE warehouse building (now belonging to Ashley Capital). Only one of these wells produced samples containing a significant level of dissolved phase arsenic (26 ug/l); however, the investigation is designed to determine whether there is a source of contamination nearby or whether the result is related to naturally occurring environmental conditions at the northwest corner of the GE property. Currently, there is insufficient data to evaluate the absence or presence of such a source. Initially, the project team plans to install and sample five new monitoring wells, in addition to collecting surface and subsurface soil samples throughout an expanded area, centering on the identified “hot” well.
- **The TNT Area** – Data from the Corps’ latest (Summer 2006) TNT area groundwater sampling effort will be used to determine the feasibility of a couple of remedial alternatives being considered for the site. Fortunately, the TNT concentrations in the groundwater have also been declining significantly over time, but the goal is to see if the environment is such that such natural degradation is likely to continue with or without active intervention. The two potential remedial alternatives that the latest sampling is designed to help evaluate for this site are: in-situ biodegradation through natural processes and in-situ chemical oxidation through augmentation of nutrients to accelerate natural degradation processes. The Corps will also have to evaluate methods of remediation for the contaminated soil at the TNT area.
- **Main Burning Ground** – In 2006, the Corps focused most of its munitions response efforts at FNOD in the Main Burning Ground area on GE property (some of which now belongs to Ashley Capital) and in the adjacent Tidewater Community College parcel north of Welner Drive. In CY 2006, through July, the Corps removed 53 discarded military munitions items, 2942 pounds of munitions debris (inert material), and 50,354 pounds of non-munitions-related scrap. The Corps will continue its munitions investigation at the GE Main Burning Ground where only 11, 100-foot by 100-foot site grids remain to investigate as of August 25, 2006.
- **Nansemond River Beachfront** – The Corps is developing plans to conduct a munitions investigation at the Nansemond River Beachfront in FY07. FY2006 efforts included investigating three sites where munitions had been previously identified, followed by extending three trenches inland from those locations until native soil was reached. This effort provided information sufficient to scope the upcoming munitions removal contract which will be awarded when FY07 funding becomes available. .

For More Information: Contact Norfolk FUDS Program Manager, Adriane James, at 757-201-7701, or FNOD Project Manager, George Mears, at 757-201-7181.